

Appl. No. 10/644,111
Amdt. Dated February 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated February 9, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A cordless stethoscope for use in hazardous material environments, the cordless stethoscope comprising:
 - a fluid tight housing sized and shaped for being grasped by a gloved hand having a head opening, an activation switch opening, a microphone opening and a microphone switch opening;
 - a power source within the fluid tight housing;
 - a stethoscope head within the head opening of the housing for sensing auscultatory sounds having a fluid tight member between the stethoscope head and the head opening connected in circuit to the power source;
 - a fluid tight cover over the stethoscope head sealing the head opening;
 - a momentary activation switch within the activation switch opening connected in circuit to the stethoscope head for activating the stethoscope head when the momentary activation switch is actuated;
 - a second fluid tight cover over the momentary activation switch sealing the activation switch opening;

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a microphone within the microphone opening for sensing sound communications having a second fluid tight member between the microphone and the microphone opening connected in circuit to the power source;

a microphone activation switch within the microphone switch opening connected in circuit to the microphone for activating the microphone when the microphone activation switch is actuated;

a third fluid tight cover over the microphone switch sealing the microphone switch opening;

a magnetic induction transmitter within the fluid tight housing connected in circuit to the power source for transmitting the auscultatory sound sensed by the stethoscope head and sound communications sensed by the microphone in a magnetic field;

a receiver housing;

a receiver power source within the receiver housing;

a magnetic induction receiver within the receiver housing connected in circuit to the receiver power source for receiving the magnetic field containing the auscultatory sound and sound communications; and

an ear piece connected in circuit to the magnetic induction receiver for converting the magnetic field received by the receiver into audible sound.

2. (original) The cordless stethoscope of claim 1 wherein the fluid tight housing further comprises an indicator opening and an indicator for indicating power flow to the stethoscope head within the indicator opening connected in circuit to the power source.

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3. (original) The cordless stethoscope of claim 2 wherein the fluid tight housing further comprises a ring providing means for attaching the fluid tight housing to another object.

4. (original) The cordless stethoscope of claim 1 further comprising a no slip grip connected to an outer portion of the fluid tight housing providing an improved gripping surface.

5. (original) A sound sensing device for use in hazardous material environments, the device comprising:

a fluid tight housing sized and shaped for being grasped by a gloved hand having a head opening, an activation switch opening, a microphone opening and a microphone switch opening;

a power source within the fluid tight housing;

a stethoscope head within the head opening of the housing for sensing auscultatory sounds having a fluid tight member between the stethoscope head and the head opening connected in circuit to the power source;

a momentary activation switch within the activation switch opening connected in circuit to the stethoscope head for activating the stethoscope head when the momentary activation switch is actuated;

a fluid tight cover over the momentary activation switch sealing the activation switch opening;

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a microphone within the microphone opening for sensing sound communications having a second fluid tight member between the microphone and the microphone opening connected in circuit to the power source;

a microphone activation switch within the microphone switch opening connected in circuit to the microphone for activating the microphone when the microphone activation switch is actuated;

a second fluid tight cover over the microphone switch sealing the microphone switch opening; and

a magnetic induction transmitter within the fluid tight housing connected in circuit to the power source for transmitting the auscultatory sound sensed by the stethoscope head and the sound communications sensed by the microphone.

6. (original) The device of claim 5 wherein the fluid tight housing further comprises an indicator opening and an indicator for indicating power flow to the stethoscope head within the indicator opening connected in circuit to the power source.

7. (original) The device of claim 6 wherein the fluid tight housing further comprises a ring providing means for attaching the fluid tight housing to another object.

8. (original) The device of claim 5 further comprising a no slip grip connected to an outer portion of the fluid tight housing providing an improved gripping surface.

Claim Nos. 9 – 20 (canceled)

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21. (original) A sound sensing device for use in hazardous material environments, the device comprising:

a fluid tight housing sized and shaped for being grasped by a gloved hand having a head opening and an activation switch opening;

a power source within the fluid tight housing;

a stethoscope head within the head opening of the housing for sensing auscultatory sounds having a fluid tight member between the stethoscope head and the head opening connected in circuit to the power source;

a momentary activation switch within the activation switch opening connected in circuit to the stethoscope head for activating the stethoscope head when the momentary activation switch is actuated;

a fluid tight cover over the momentary activation switch sealing the activation switch opening; and

a magnetic induction transmitter within the fluid tight housing connected in circuit to the power source for transmitting the auscultatory sounds.

22. (original) The device of claim 21 wherein the fluid tight housing further comprises an indicator opening and an indicator for indicating power flow to the stethoscope head within the indicator opening connected in circuit to the power source.

23. (original) The device of claim 22 wherein the fluid tight housing further comprises a ring providing means for attaching the fluid tight housing to another object.

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24. (original) The device of claim 23 further comprising a no slip grip connected to an outer portion of the fluid tight housing providing an improved gripping surface.

25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) A cordless stethoscope for use in hazardous material environments, the cordless stethoscope comprising a fluid-impermeable, hand-holdable casing assembly, a cordless data transmitter, a remote receiver, and a sound reproduction device, the casing assembly thus being sized and shaped for being grasped by a gloved human hand, the casing assembly comprising a stethoscope head end, the stethoscope head end for receiving auscultatory sound data, the data transmitter being housed within the casing assembly for transmitting auscultatory sound data received by the stethoscope head end to the remote receiver, the remote receiver for relaying auscultatory sound data transmissions from the data transmitter to the sound reproduction device, the sound reproduction device for converting the relayed auscultatory sound data transmissions into audible sounds.

27. (previously presented) The cordless stethoscope of claim 26 comprising a microphone assembly, the microphone assembly being in electrical communication with the data transmitter for relaying voice sound data to the data transmitter, the data transmitter for transmitting voice sound data received by the microphone assembly to the remote receiver, the remote

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receiver for relaying voice sound data transmissions from the data transmitter to the sound reproduction device, the sound reproduction device for converting the relayed voice sound data transmissions into audible sounds.

28. (previously presented) The cordless stethoscope of claim 26 wherein the data transmitter is a magnetic induction transmitter, the magnetic induction transmitter for relaying the auscultatory sound data to the remote receiver via an omnidirectional magnetic field, the magnetic induction transmitter for enhancing cooperative usage with peripheral equipment, the peripheral equipment operatively utilizing radio wave-based electromagnetic energy.
29. (previously presented) The cordless stethoscope of claim 27 comprising an indicator, the indicator for indicating operation of the stethoscope head end.
30. (previously presented) The sound relaying device of claim 29 comprising device-coupling means, the device-coupling means for removably coupling the sound relaying device to another object.
31. (previously presented) A sound relaying device for use in hazardous material environments, the device comprising, in combination, a fluid-impermeable, hand-holdable casing assembly, a microphone assembly, and a data transmitter, the casing assembly being sized and shaped for being grasped by a gloved human hand, the casing assembly comprising a stethoscope head

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end, the stethoscope head end for receiving auscultatory sound data, the microphone assembly being encased within the casing assembly for receiving voice sound data, the data transmitter being encased within the casing assembly and cooperatively associated with the stethoscope head end and the microphone assembly for relaying the auscultatory and voice sound data to a remote receiver.

32. (previously presented) The sound relaying device of claim 30 wherein the data transmitter is a magnetic induction transmitter, the magnetic induction transmitter for relaying the sound data to the remote receiver via a magnetic field, the magnetic induction transmitter for enhancing cooperative usage with the peripheral equipment operatively utilizing radio wave-based electromagnetic energy.
33. (previously presented) The sound relaying device of claim 31 comprising an indicator, the indicator for indicating operation of the stethoscope head end.
34. (previously presented) The sound relaying device of claim 32 comprising device-coupling means, the device-coupling means for removably coupling the sound relaying device to another object.